



October 18, 2023

Industry Makes response to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's report on the "Mississippi River Chemical Corridor" and its impact on the economy and the population.

Mr. Calfat, thank you again for reaching out to Industry Makes for our perspective of your upcoming "Chemical Corridor" profile.

You are correct when you say, "much has been said about the corridor," and Industry Makes was formed, in part, to debunk those stories. More specifically, to address the misinformation regarding cancer rates.

First, we would invite you and your viewers to come to Louisiana and experience the culture. There is none other like it in the world. Louisianians are hard-working, proud people that ensure worldwide health, safety, and security through the molecules they create every day along the Mississippi River Corridor, where large acres of land are available and needed for production processes, along with transportation by water, by truck, and by pipeline to move their products, as well as a skilled workforce to work the chemical and refining processes.

Communities where industry operates benefit from strong, stable tax bases, accessible and quality healthcare, quality schools, and an enhanced quality of life. Industry brings quality jobs to these communities that include retirement plans, health insurance and above-average incomes that sustain families and grow communities. Industrial operations do not just provide jobs, they provide lifelong careers, and strengthen tax bases to provide funding for critical services including public education, public safety, meals on wheels, and infrastructure improvements, to name a few. Generations of Louisiana families have utilized advances in chemistry to design, engineer and execute processes that provide critical goods needed across the globe – they work in these facilities and live, worship and educate their kids in these local communities.

As we have previously discussed, I would refer you to the Louisiana Tumor Registry for all accurate cancer numbers in Louisiana. I would also encourage you to read the US News article describing the most recent CDC study of the top 25 counties in the US with the highest cancer rates. Not one in Louisiana. Not one. https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/slideshows/counties-with-the-highest-cancer-rates-in-the-us?fbclid=IwAR0H27_L9QSVm6OOfz2DMOTG8QImjgNPpHQaWg-v_4rT803P8_nyk72mPZ8&slide=25. More specifically, St. John the Baptist Parish has the one of the lowest rates of cancer in Louisiana, for all cancers, for all races, and for all sexes. Additionally, according to the American Cancer Society, the cancer mortality rate in the U.S. has decreased continuously since 1991, resulting in an overall drop of 33% and approximately 3.8 million cancer deaths averted. St. John the Baptist Parish has followed this trend. This steady progress is because of reductions in smoking; uptake of screening for breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers; and improvements in treatment.

Expanding access to care and increasing investment for the broad application of existing cancer control interventions and for research to advance treatment options and develop successful interventions to reduce inequalities would help mitigate disparities and accelerate progress against cancer.

I would also like to draw a vast distinction between cancer “risks” and actual cancer incidents- they are not the same. The cancer data mentioned above does not support the EPA’s “Possible” culprit, or cancer “Risks”- these are words used to scare, not to educate.

Industry in Louisiana provides valuable economic support of the communities where they invest, they provide energy to America and around the world, they fertilize our crops, they secure our food, and purify our drinking water. Louisiana’s industry saves lives, it does not put them at “risk.”